

Amendment to the Drawings

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Figure 3 and Figure 5. This sheet, including Figures 3 to 6 replaces the original sheet including Figures 3 to 6. In Figure 3, one labeling for element 46 was removed. In Figure 5, the label for element 41 in the original drawing was corrected to read element 10.

Attachment: One (1) Replacement Drawing Sheet

REMARKS

The drawings were objected to as failing to comply under 35 U.S.C. §119(a)-(d). Claims 10 and 15 were objected to due to informalities. Claims 1 to 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicants regard as the invention. Claims 1, 7 to 9, 12 to 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Rohs et al. (US 6,364,775). Claims 1 to 12, 14 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Kuhne (US 5,095,771).

Claims 1, 3, 8, 9, 10 and 15 have been amended.

Reconsideration of the application based on the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Drawing Objections

The drawings for Figure 3 and Figure 5 were objected to for failing to comply with 37 C.F.R. 1.84 (p)(4).

The drawings have been amended.

Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claim Objections

Claims 10 and 15 were objected to due to informalities.

Claims 10 and 15 have been amended in response to the Office Action.

Withdrawal of the objections to claims 10 and 15 is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. 112 Rejections

Claims 1 to 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicants regard as the invention.

In claim 1, the Office Action asserts there is insufficient antecedent basis for line 5, "the second parts."

Claim 1 has been amended.

In claims 1 and 8, the Office Action asserts it is unclear what the limitation “other regions” includes and what “on an outside” is referring.

Claims 1 and 8 have been amended to clarify the limitations.

In claim 3, the Office Action asserts there is insufficient antecedent basis for line 4, “the additional spring.”

Claim 3 has been amended.

In claims 8, 9, 10 and 15, the Office Action asserts it is unclear what the limitation “ring-like” includes.

The claims have been amended in response to the Office Action.

In claim 8, the Office Action asserts it is unclear what the limitation “on the outside” is referring.

Claim 8 has been amended to clarify the limitation.

35 U.S.C. 102(b) Rejections

Claims 1, 7 to 9, 12 to 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Rohs et al. (US 6,364,775).

Rohs et al. discloses a torsional vibration damper with a primary plate and a secondary plate. “The primary plate encompasses a primary plate which transfers a torque movement from the primary plate to the secondary plate.” (Col. 1, Lines 21 to 23).

In particular, the primary plate can have at least one support area with a surface running perpendicular to the direction of rotation of the torsion vibration damper. Forces can be transferred in the peripheral direction from the primary plate. This can be achieved to advantage, by means of a spring arrangement encompassing thrust pistons and springs, arranged between the primary and secondary plates.
(Col. 1, Lines 33 to 42).

Claim 1 has been amended to recite “a torsional vibration damper comprising:
a first part and a second part rotatable around an axis of rotation, the first part being pivotable with respect to the second part;

at least one energy accumulator compressible through pivoting of the first part with respect to the second part, the energy accumulator acting around a circumference of the torsional vibration damper, the energy accumulator having at least one spring having end regions and an intermediate region between the end regions; and

a carrier for receiving the spring, the carrier having a carrier region radially overlapping the intermediate region outside of the intermediate region, the carrier being pivotable with respect to the first and second parts, the end regions of the spring being supported in the carrier so that the intermediate region remains contactless, at least up to a limiting rotational speed, in relation to the corner region.”

Rohs et al. fails to teach or show “a carrier for receiving the spring, the carrier having a carrier region radially overlapping the intermediate region outside of the intermediate region,” as recited in claim 1.

Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and its dependent claims is respectfully requested.

Furthermore in regards to claim 7, Rohs et al. fails to teach or show an annular receiver. The annular receiver asserted in the office action (21) is a spring chamber.

Claims 1 to 12, 14 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Kuhne (US 5,095,771).

Kuhne discloses a double mass flywheel. Kuhne divides “the central disk that joins the two flywheel masses into a radially inner partial disk connected to the driven flywheel mass and two radially outer partial disks of which one at any time is directly driven by the other driving flywheel mass to, in turn, drive the inner partial disk.” (Col. 1, Lines 59 to 64).

Claim 1 has been amended to recite “a torsional vibration damper comprising:

a first part and a second part rotatable around an axis of rotation, the first part being pivotable with respect to the second part;

at least one energy accumulator compressible through pivoting of the first part with respect to the second part, the energy accumulator acting around a circumference of the torsional vibration damper, the energy accumulator having at least one spring having end regions and an intermediate region between the end regions; and

a carrier for receiving the spring, the carrier having a carrier region radially overlapping the intermediate region outside of the intermediate region, the carrier being pivotable with respect to the first and second parts, the end regions of the spring being supported in the carrier so that the intermediate region remains contactless, at least up to a limiting rotational speed, in relation to the corner region.”

Kuhne fails to teach or show “at least one energy accumulator compressible through pivoting of the first part with respect to the second part,” as recited in claim 1. The slip transmission member 50 asserted in the Office action, is not an energy accumulator nor is it compressible. The “transmission member springs act in the axial direction and which, via friction elements axially outside the springs, press against the two side disks and permit rotary slippage between the transmission member and the side disks.” Furthermore, Kuhne fails to teach or show “a carrier for receiving the spring, the carrier having a carrier region radially overlapping the intermediate region outside of the intermediate region,” as recited in claim 1.

Withdrawal of the rejection of independent claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and its dependent claims 2 to 12, 14 and 15 is respectfully requested.

Furthermore in regard to claim 2, Kuhne fails to teach or show “at least one spring includes at least two compression springs positioned one behind another in series,” as recited in claim 2. The compression springs are not positioned behind one another in a series

Furthermore, in regard to claim 8, Kuhne fails to teach or show “one ring shaped wall region overlapping the at least one carrier radially on the outside of the carrier region,” as recited in claim 8.

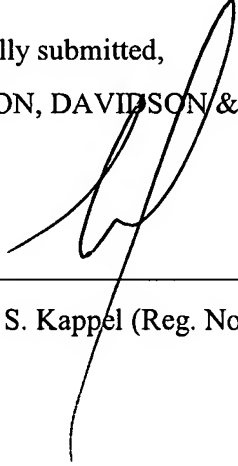
Furthermore in regard to claim 14, Kunhe fails to teach or show “the carrier and second carrier being supported against centrifugal force by at least one ring component,” as recited in claim 14.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance and applicants respectfully request such action.

If any additional fees are deemed to be due at this time, the Assistant Commissioner is authorized to charge payment of the same to Deposit Account No. 50-0552.

Respectfully submitted,
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